

STATE BOARD OF HEALTH
INDIANAPOLIS

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OFFICE MEMORANDUM

DATE: November 12, 1976

FROM: Bruce Palin

TO: Files

SUBJECT: Gary Land Development

On October 27, 1976, George Dayhuff and I visited the above referenced subject. The purpose of our visit was to inform Larry Hagen, landfill operator, that his discharging of water from the site into the Grand Calumet River was a pollution source and a violation of State law. We also mentioned that the construction plans for the site called for the leachate to be collected and trucked to the East Chicago Sanitary District for treatment.

The construction plans also called for the following: all sides of the fill area to be sealed with clay, a perimeter dewatering system installed outside the clay barrier, and an on-site collection system for collecting leachate. None of these systems have been installed as outlined.

Mr. Hagen has excavated a pit on-site in which he is dumping sludges that he accepts, some of them without approval from the staff. The wastes he has approved to take were to be mixed with the general refuse and not put in a separate area as he is now doing.

As can be easily seen this site has several violations from which to choose. Instead of attacking them all at once, I have decided to concentrate on the discharge from the site, as it presents the most immediate danger, and most of the other violations can be tied in with the discharge.

GARY LAND DEVELOPMENT LANDFILL
(SW 133, OPP #45-2)
East of Cline Avenue at Gary Avenue

In January of 1970, the National Disposal Company of Barrington, Illinois, proposed a landfill at the above referenced location. At that time the proposal was denied on the grounds that sufficient impermeable cover soil was not available, the subsurface material was sand, the water table was two feet below the surface and the site was in the flood plain of the Grand Calumet River. This site was an abandoned sand pit which was full of water. The water was at the same elevation as the Calumet River and was most likely representative of the groundwater table in the area.

In October of 1972, Joe Tite, P.E., contacted the State and informed us that he had been hired by Rock Road Construction Company, an Illinois firm, to design a sanitary landfill in this old water-filled sand mine. Mr. Tite indicated that before he could proceed the pit would have to be dewatered and he requested State permission to discharge the water from the pit into the Calumet River. An analysis of the water in the pit showed it to be clean and on May 16, 1973, the Stream Pollution Control Board granted the now Gary Land Development Company permission to pump groundwater out of their pit into the Calumet River.

On May 31, 1973, the Gary Land Development Company submitted a sanitary landfill proposal which had been prepared by Joe Tite, P.E. The proposal called for an exterior perimeter drainage system, side walls of the sand pit to be sealed with clay, an interior leachate collecting system to be connected to the East Chicago Sanitary District sewers, daily cover with clay and no dumping of liquid or sludge wastes. Also, a system of monitoring wells was to be placed around the perimeter of the site. These plans were approved by the Stream Pollution Control Board on June 21, 1973.

By February of 1974, this site was still not dewatered and no appreciable amount of construction of the plans submitted in May of 1973 had yet taken place. In March of 1974 Joe Tite informed the State Board of Health that he was no longer involved with this site which prompted the Solid Waste Management Section to write to the Gary Land Development Company and ask for reassurances that this site was to be constructed in accordance with approval SW 133. On August 20, 1974, the City of Gary Sanitary District wrote to the Stream Pollution Control Board that the leachate collected at this site would be delivered by tank truck to their treatment plant. No mention was made on where the clay for cover would come from.

-2-

Gary Land Development Landfill

On September 11, 1974, this site was inspected and indicated that all necessary construction was completed and the site should be given its operating permit. From subsequent inspections by different inspectors it was determined that the two separate collection systems, one for dewatering and one for leachate collection, were never constructed and that leachate is being pumped into the Calumet River instead of being trucked to the Gary Sewage Treatment Plant. Also, the sides of the sand pit have not been adequately lined with clay, and daily cover when applied is with sand not clay as specified.

On January 30, 1975, this site was inspected and liquid wastes were observed to have been deposited. From January 30, 1975, until the present, every inspection of this site has noted that hazardous, liquid and sludge wastes are being dumped. The manager of this site, Larry Hagan, has been cautioned about accepting these wastes without Stream Pollution Control Board approval yet he continues to accept them. On November 17, 1975, a meeting was held between Mr. Hagan and members of the Indiana State Board of Health, Solid Waste Management Section, at which time Mr. Hagan was ordered to stop taking unauthorized hazardous waste. Also, he was told to put in monitoring wells and to improve his covering of refuse. Subsequent inspections revealed no improvement in the operation and on January 12, 1976, Gary Land Development Company was ordered by letter to cease all dumping of liquid sludge and hazardous waste immediately. On February 20, 1976, a violation letter was sent indicating problems with leachate, daily cover, blowing paper, and a need for monitoring wells.

This site is presently accepting liquid, sludge, and hazardous waste in violation of SPC-18, Chapter V. Also our lab analysis of leachate samples taken on August 27, 1976, indicate that significant amounts of heavy metals and oils are being pumped into the Grand Calumet River. Enforcement action is not being taken at this time.